

Project Proposal

A. LAND WATER BENEFITS

The overall benefits to **water quality, riparian habitat, and flood control and storm water management** within the Hangtown Creek watershed, shown on the attached map, are significant with the completion of the watershed plan and subsequent implementation of the recommendation in the plan. The Tasks described in the project summary will provide the basis that allows for the ongoing management and stewardship of the Hangtown Creek watershed. As identified in the draft Hangtown Creek Watershed Plan (attached in electronic version only), the proposed strategy for providing comprehensive flood protection within the watershed is to recognize the constrained nature of the Creek channel within the central area of the City of Placerville (City), and to utilize a series of ponds and detention basins throughout the watershed that would contain storm water runoff during storm events, and release it slowly into the creek system at a rate that can be contained within the existing creek channel. The use of ponds and detention basins would provide the opportunity for the filtering of storm water to remove sediments and other pollutants, it would increase the opportunity for storm water infiltration to improve groundwater recharge, it would provide opportunity for seasonal wetland expansion, improve wildlife habitat opportunities, and maintain areas of open space within the Hangtown Creek watershed.

Hangtown Creek is tributary to the South Fork of the American River, which flows into the Folsom Reservoir. Folsom is a drinking water source for thousands of people in the adjacent foothill region and the greater Sacramento Valley. The existence of the City trunk sewer system within the creek channel itself, and the aging and substandard sewer lift stations within the watershed constitute an ongoing and serious threat to **water quality** within the Hangtown Creek and downstream watersheds. Moving the sewerline out of the creek channel is part of the City's long term vision, and upgrading or eliminating the sewer lift stations will minimize the risk of contamination, protect drink water supplies, and improve water quality for other beneficial uses such as freshwater habitat. The relocated trunk sewer lines and the lift station upgrades will incorporate improved materials and construction methods that will increase the reliability, and overall capacity of the system. It will also significantly reduce the potential for I/I in the system; something that is currently a very serious problem for the City at it's wastewater treatment plant.

Ongoing and watershed plan recommended **restoration, habitat improvement**, and channel maintenance will provide a direct and immediate benefit to the watershed from wildlife, aesthetic, and storm drainage capacity perspectives. The selective thinning of existing vegetation and the removal of exotic and invasive plant species will have an overall beneficial effect on the native plants and animals that live within the Creek's riparian area. This activity will also serve to increase the overall channel capacity, and when coupled with the removal of the trunk sewer lines from the creek channel, significant enhancements will result to all aspects of the channel environment.

A comprehensive watershed management plan that addresses stormwater management and flood control, creek and habitat restoration, public access, and water quality will also provide a blueprint and guidance for future **land use** decisions made by the City.

B. SNC PROGRAM GOALS: